

REMARKS

The Official Action has required the election of one of the following groups:

Group I, Claims 1-24, drawn to methods of screening a mixture for active entities;

Group II, Claim 26, drawn to a method of screening a pool of dissociated entities;

and

Group III, Claims 25 and 27, drawn to a method of screening a pool of entities in a concentration gradient.

In responding to the restriction requirement, Applicants hereby elect, with traverse, Group 1, Claims 1-24.

In responding to the election of species requirement, Applicants elect, also with traverse, the species from A-E:

- A. Species of ligand: peptide;
- B. Species of support: polymethacrylate;
- C. Species of mixture/composition: conditioned cell medium;
- D. Species of entity: proteins; and
- E. Species of activity: cell proliferation.

These species elections are with the understanding that upon the allowance of a generic claim, Applicants will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which depend from or otherwise require all the limitations of an allowable generic claim. 37 C.F.R. § 1.141.

The above election is being made with traverse. In particular, Applicants respectfully submit that the search and examination of all currently pending claims would not pose an undue burden on the Examiner. Section 803 of the Manual of Patent

not pose an undue burden on the Examiner. Section 803 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure states that "[I]f the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions." In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request examination of all currently pending claims.

In responding to the restriction/election of species requirement, Applicants take no position regarding whether the claims of the various groups and species identified in the Official Action define distinct inventions.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above, Applicants believe that this application is now in condition for examination on the merits. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

May 10, 2006

Date

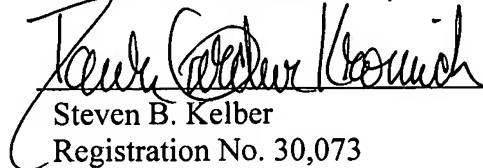
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Respectfully submitted,

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